

### **III. REMARKS**

Applicant has considered the current Office Action of mailing date November 16, 2006. Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, 19, 20, 27, 28, 33 and 34 have been amended. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 7, 15, 19, 27 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as lacking antecedent basis. Claim 1 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Couch *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,130,803, hereafter “Couch.”

#### **A. Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 15, 19, 27 and claim 37 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2**

With initial regard to the rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office has referenced claim 37 as being allegedly being indefinite. However, as claim 37 is not currently a pending claim, Applicant will presume that the Office has intended to reference claim 34 instead of non-existent claim 37. With respect to the rejection of claim 1 as lacking antecedent basis, Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “...retrieving the associated mailing address using only the identifier”, as suggest by the Office. As such, the current amendment cures claim 1 of lack of antecedent bass. Applicant submits that independent claims

16, 20 and 33 have also been thus amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw this rejection.

With respect to the rejection of claims 7, 15, 19, 27 and 34 as allegedly being indefinite, Applicant respectfully submit that the currently amended claims, recite, *inter alia*, that "...the request includes an identifier value corresponding to the identifier." Support for this amendment is found on page 6, lines 6–7 and lines 13 – 15 in originally filed specification of the pending application. As defined and explained in the originally filed specification, the term "identifier value" refers to data information that is coded as part of the identifier for a machine to read, for example, a bar code comprises data information that corresponds to a specific identifier. To this extent, the use of the term "identifier value" is definite and hence currently amended claims are definite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request the Office withdraw this rejection and allow the claims.

#### **B. Rejection of Claims 1 – 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Applicant respectfully submits that Couch does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, Couch does not teach, *inter alia*, "...retrieving a most current associated mailing address ...wherein the retrieving obviates a request to a computer." Claim 1. On the contrary, Couch teaches that a sender, e.g., "Person A [or]...a Facility [which] queries a Host and learn of delivery instructions from Person B's informational data set...", col. 12, lines 2 – 4. The Host being "[t]he entity that implements the UVDC addressing system and method", col. 4, lines 25 – 26. To this extent, the need for directly querying the Host to determine the most current mailing

address of a mail/parcel in Couch does not obviate communication with the computer as claimed in the claimed invention. Claim 1.

In addition to the above, Couch's system requires queries for a most current mailing/delivery instruction at each of the mail/parcel's transit point, which includes a sender of a particular parcel and all Facilities through which the parcel transits. Col. 12, lines 1 – 21. This continuous communication with the Host is in direct contrast with the claimed invention which claims, *inter alia*, "...a postal machine associated with a referencing system...", a single point of coordination for a one-time retrieval of the most current final physical location at which the recipient desires delivery of the mail/parcel. To this extent, Couch's continuous querying is not equivalent to the claimed one-time retrieval of the most current postal address.

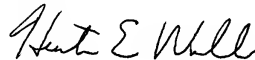
In view of the foregoing differences, Couch does not teach the claimed features of obviating the need to communicate with the computer and a single point one-time retrieval of a most current mailing address. Therefore, Couch does not anticipate the claims invention. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw the rejection and allow the claim. In the same vein, Applicant submits that independent claims are also not anticipated by Couch. Consequently, all dependent claims are not anticipated by Couch and Applicant respectfully request that the Office withdraw all rejections and allow the claims.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In addition to the above arguments, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicant does not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. These features have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicant reserves the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 15, 2007

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